



# The Graying of America Safe Mobility for Life — Developing A National Agenda

## Potential Roles for CIREN in National Agenda

John Eberhard, NHTSA, Traffic Safety  
Programs

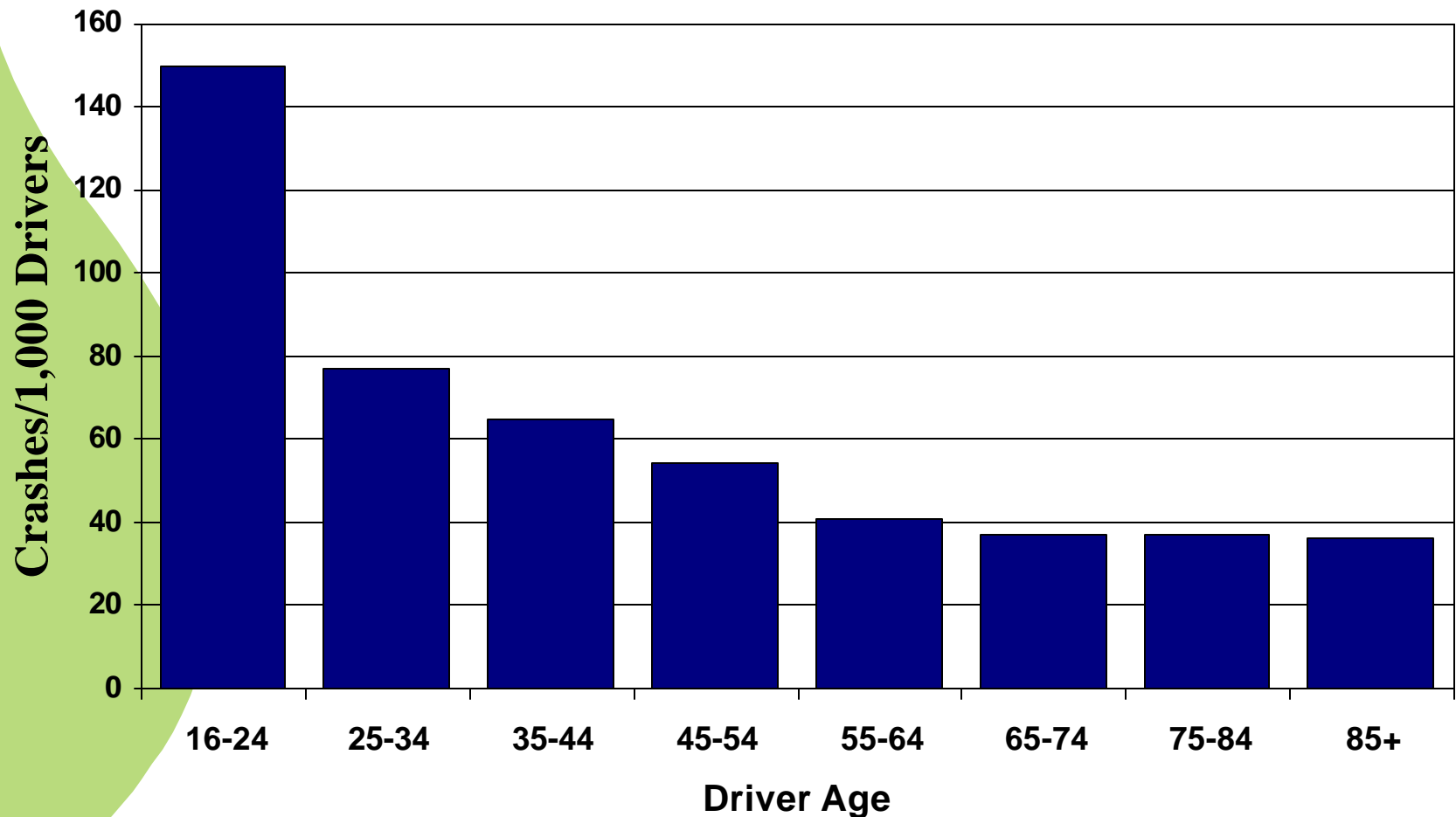
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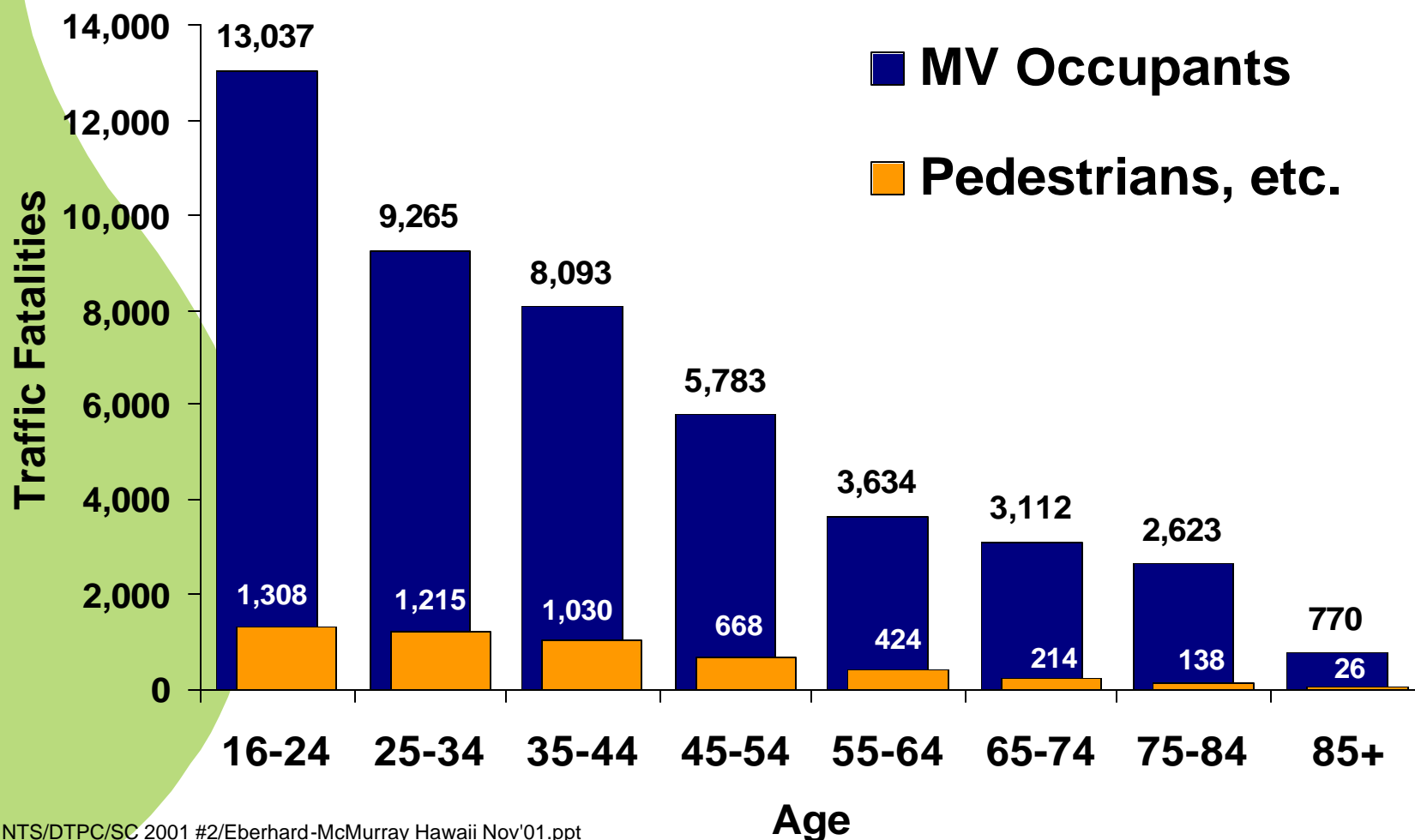
# Safe Mobility for Life: Older Drivers - Public Health Issues

- Are older drivers a significant risk to other road users?
- There are safety risks to older motor vehicle occupants

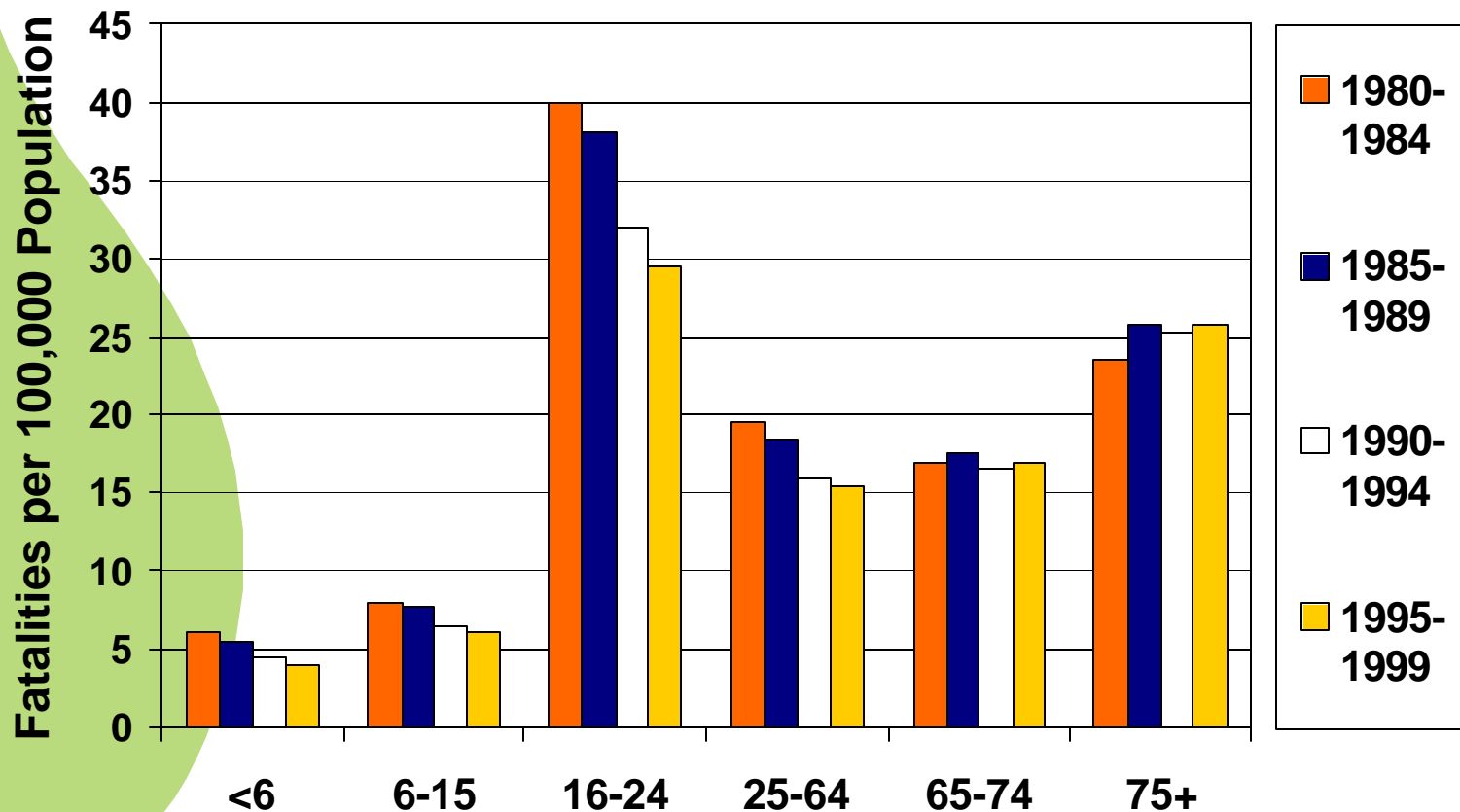
# Older Drivers Have the Lowest Crash Involvement (NCSA, 1996)



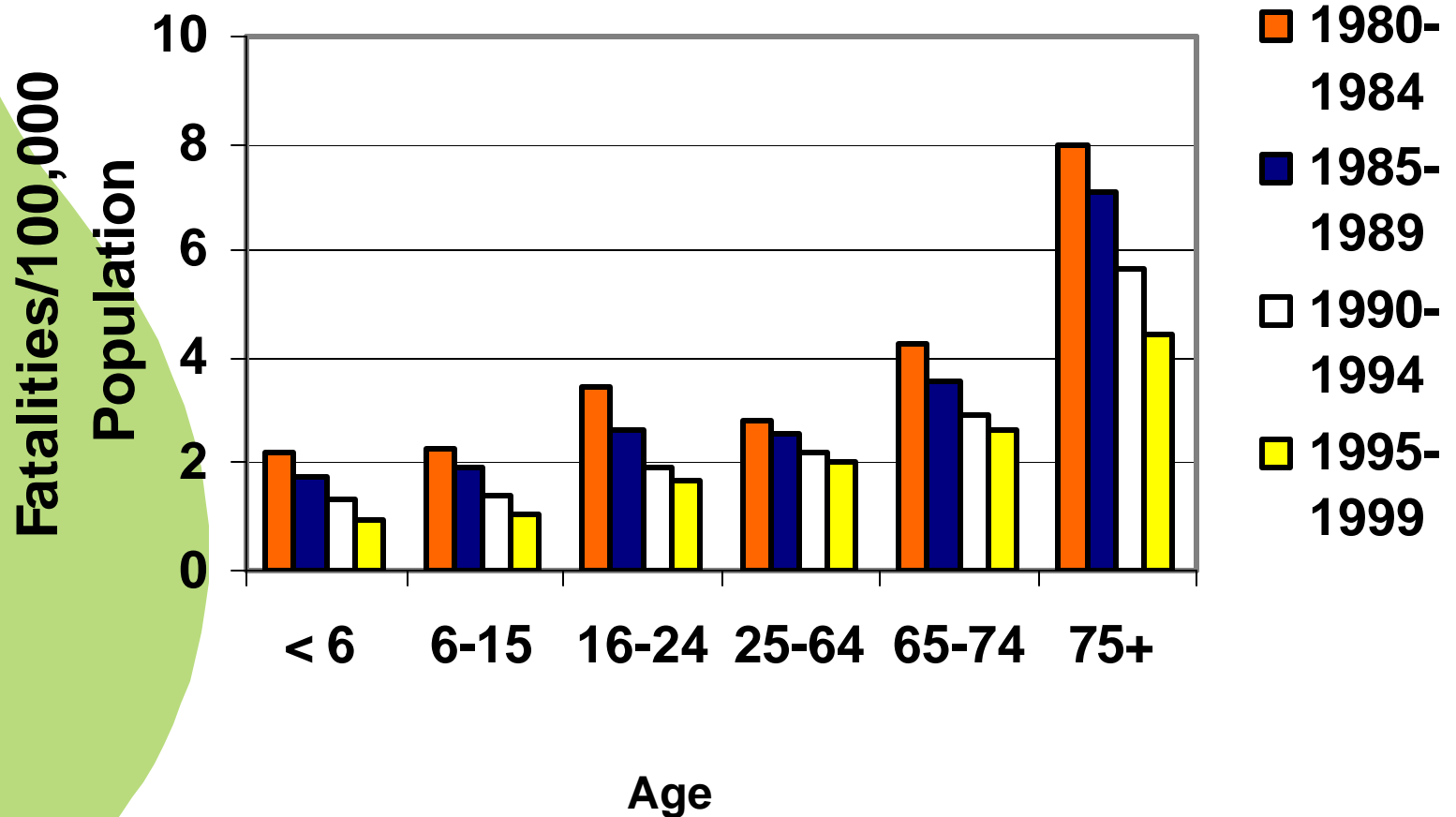
# Older Drivers Have the Lowest Fatality Involvements (FARS., 2000)



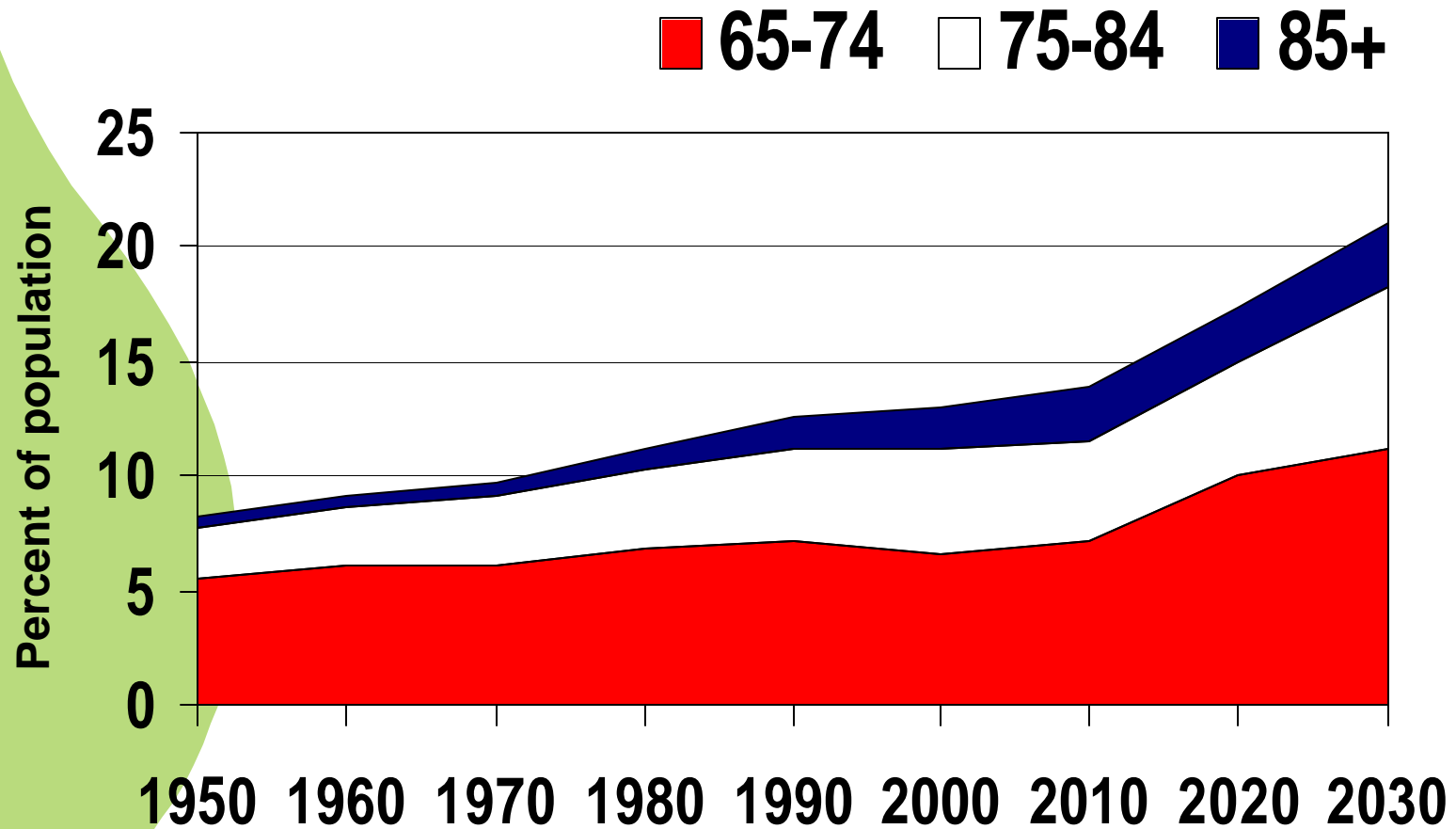
# Older Motor Vehicle Occupants (75+) Risk of Being a Fatality is Increasing



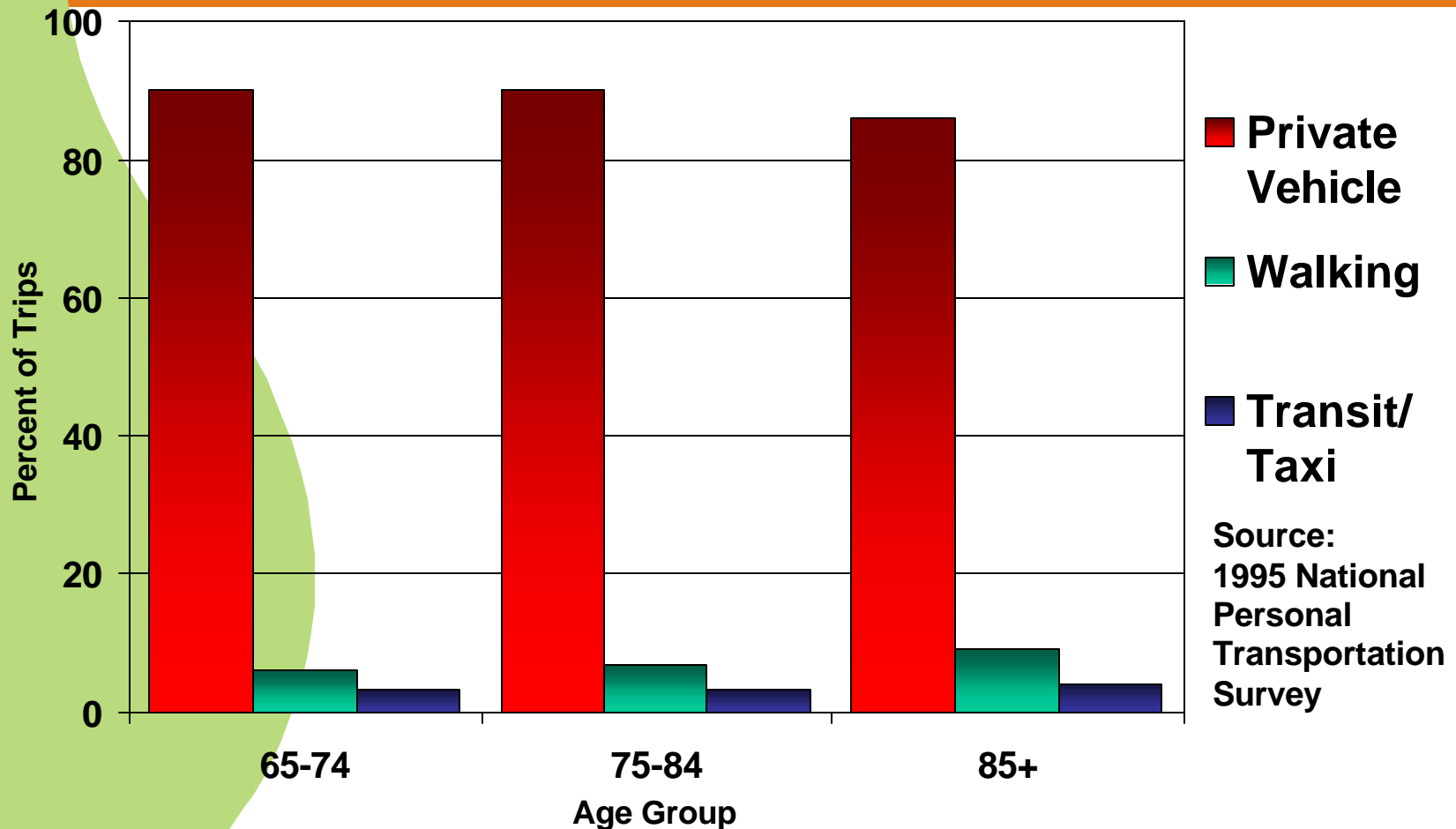
# Pedestrian Fatality Rates Are Decreasing



# A Doubling in the Number of Older Adults by 2030 (Census, 1998)



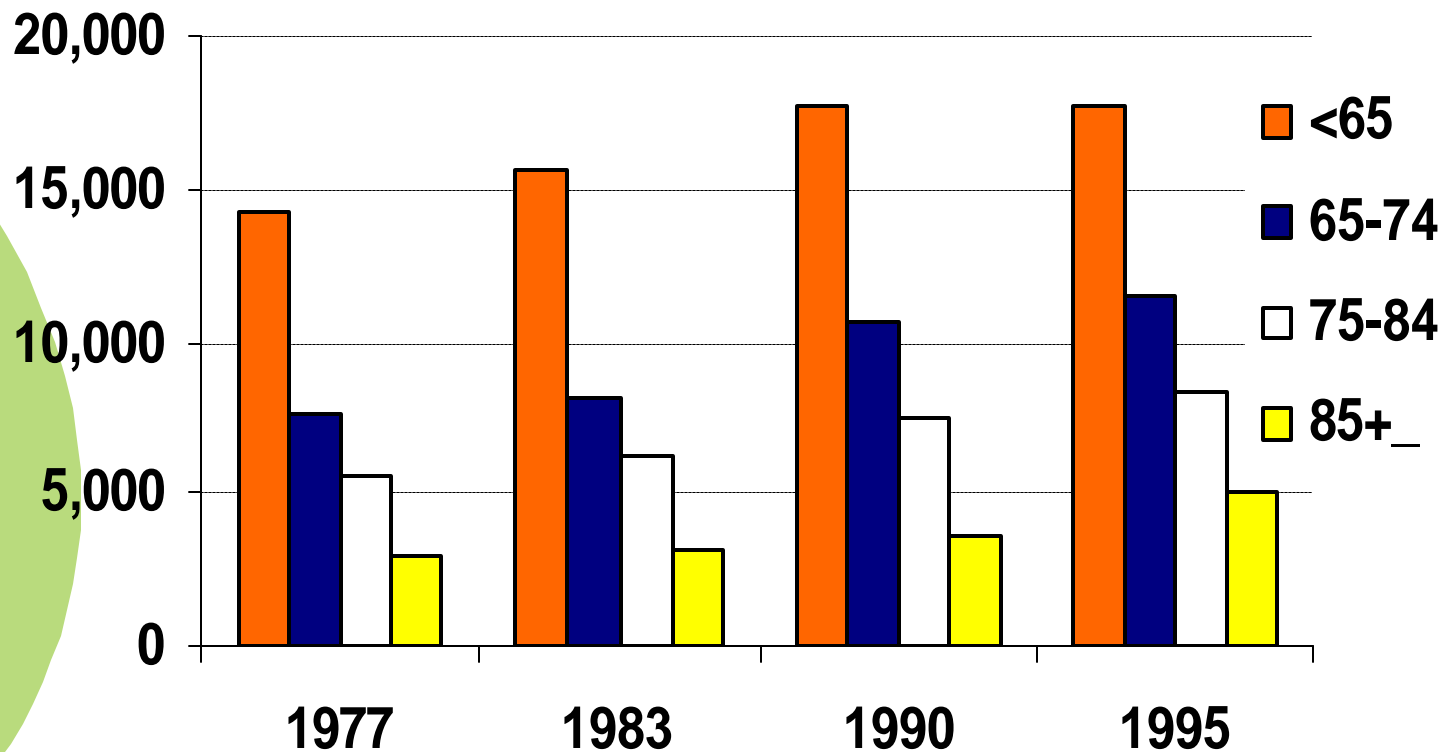
# Transportation Modes of Older Persons





# Male Annual Vehicle Miles Traveled, 1977-1995 (NPTS)

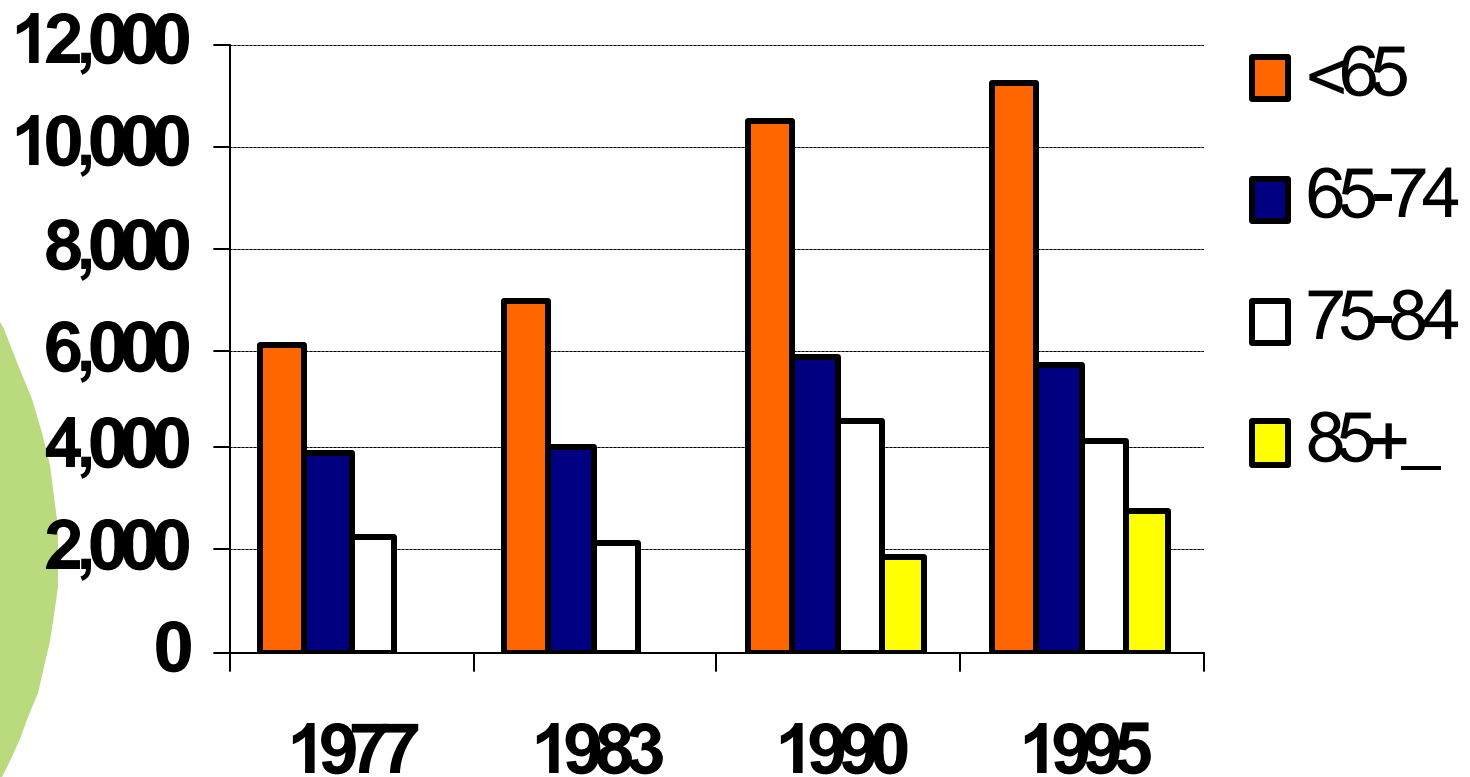
Average Annual Miles Traveled



# Female Annual Vehicle Miles Traveled, 1977-1995 (NPTS)

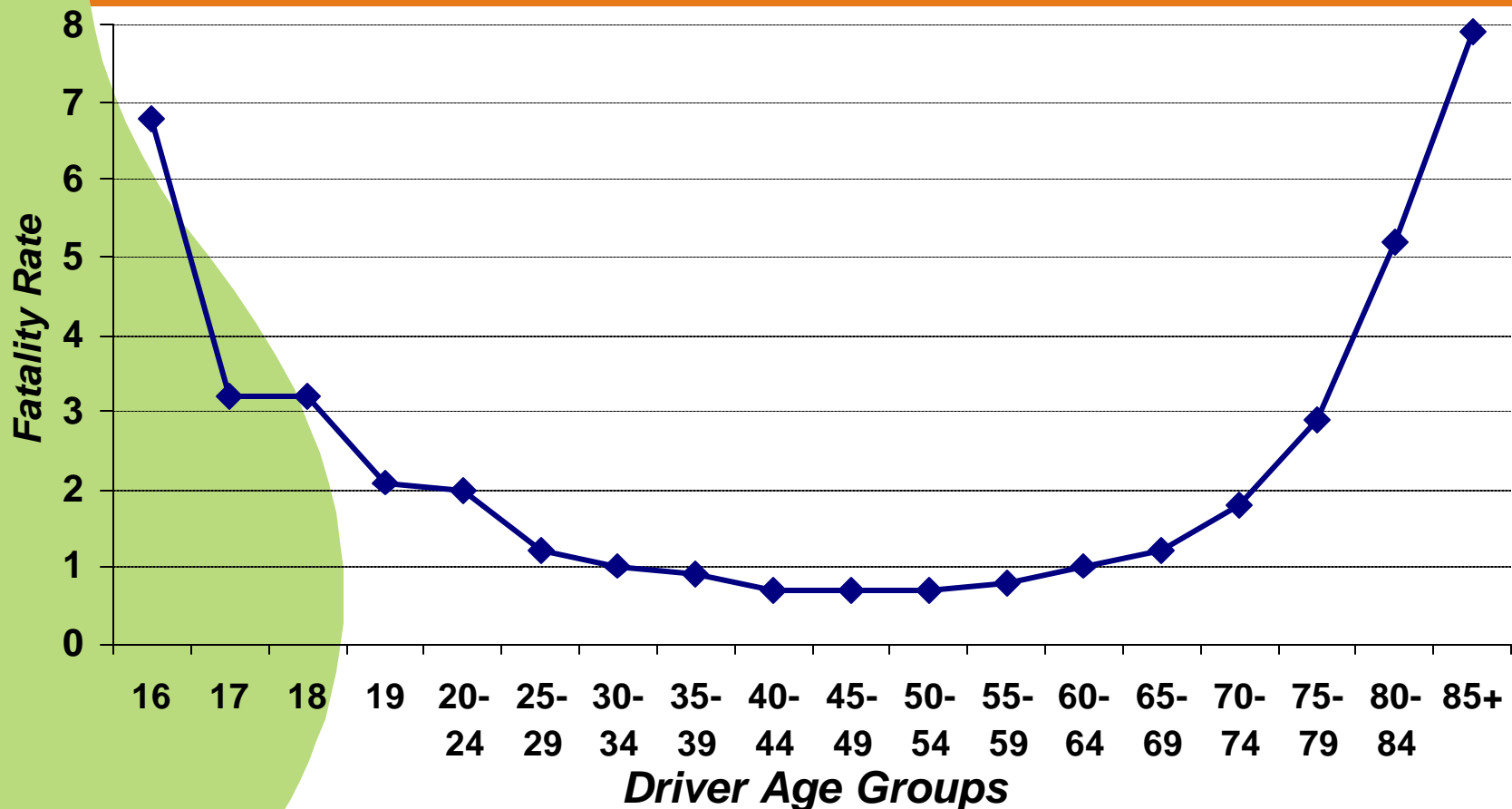
(No data for '77/'83)

Average Annual Miles Traveled



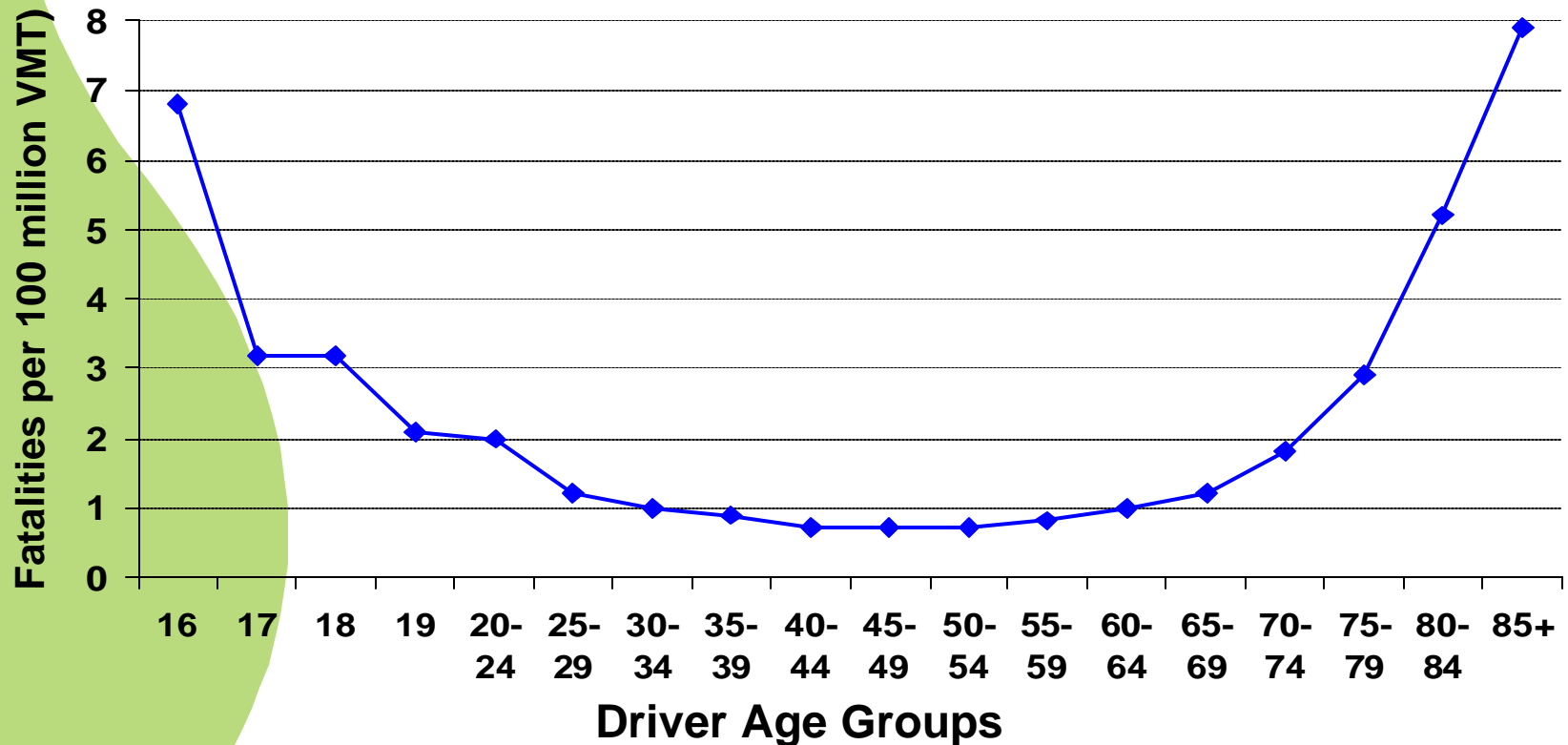
# Driver Fatality Rate

(per 100 million VMT)



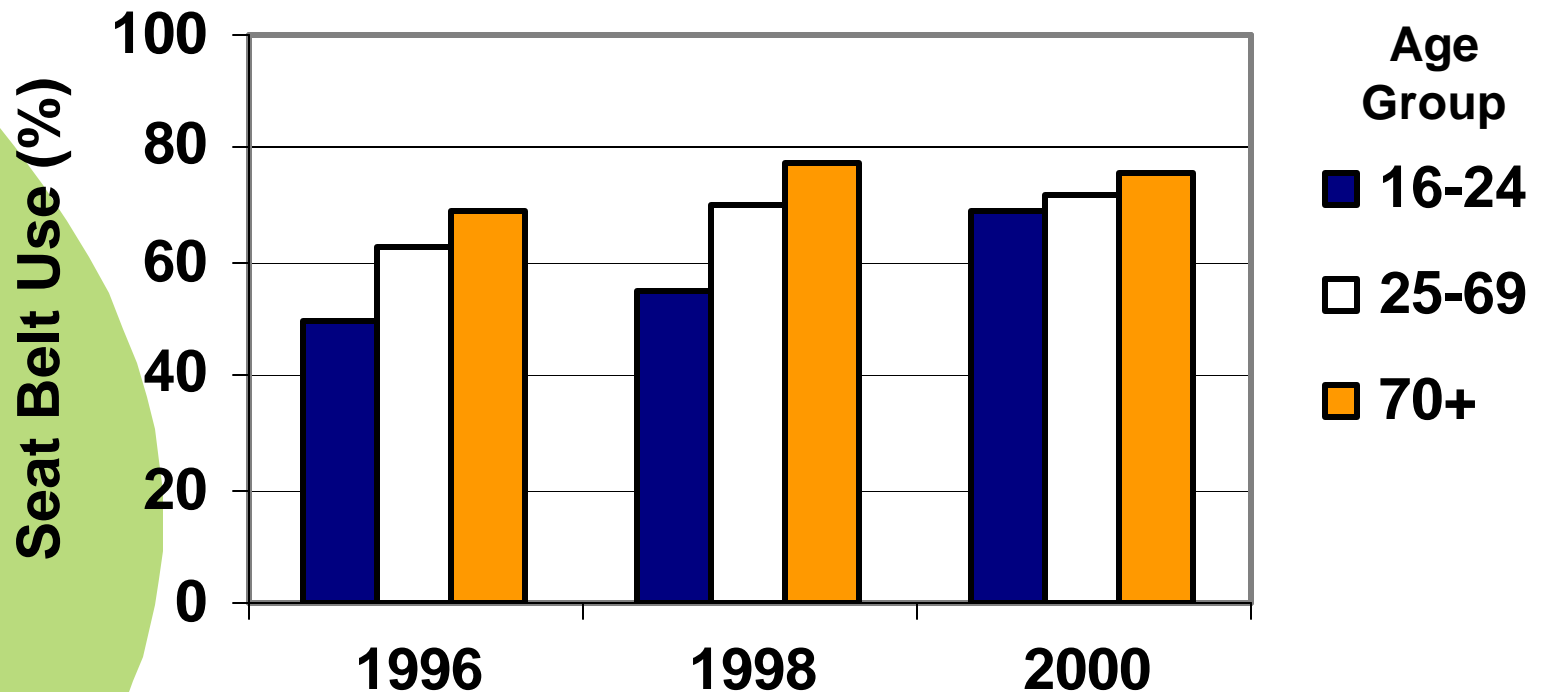
Source: Crash Data and Rates for Age-Sex Groups of Drivers, 1996 (NHTSA Research Note)

# Older Vehicle Occupants Are Frail and More Likely to Die In a Crash

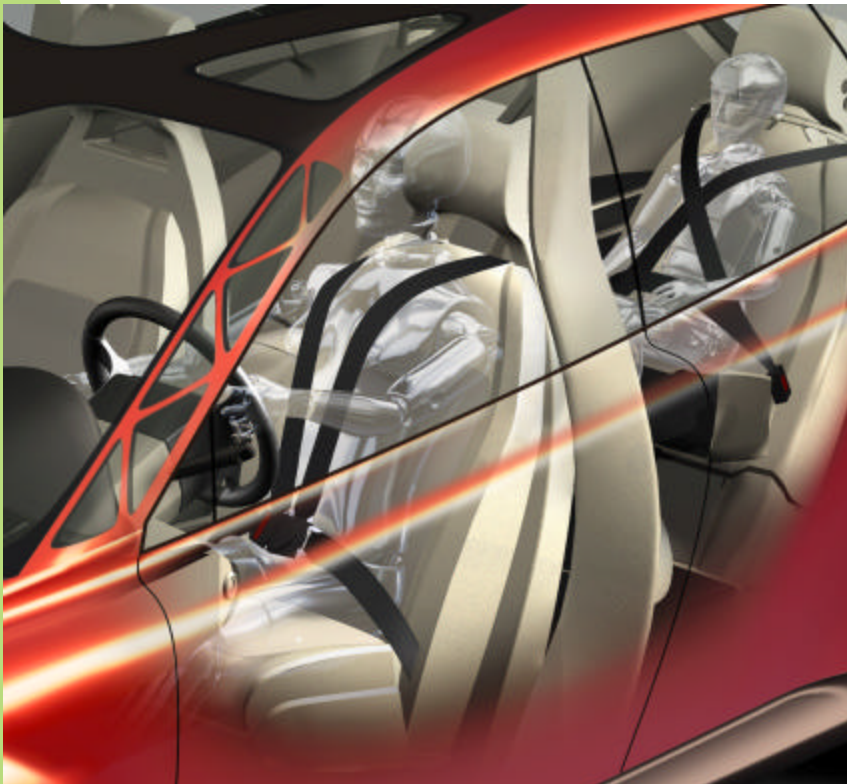


Source: Crash Data and Rates for Age-Sex Groups of Drivers, 1996 (NHTSA Research Note)

# Older Drivers Have Highest Level of Adult Restraint Use (NOPUS, 2,001)



# Encourage Development of Safer, Easier to Use Cars



- Better restraint systems
- Better visibility
- Easier to access
- Easier to drive with disabilities

# What CIREN Can Do to Aid Developing a National Agenda

- Help identify the basic issues affecting older occupant fatalities
  - Role of frailty in fatal crashes
  - Role of EMS techniques in reducing serious injuries and fatalities to older occupants and pedestrians
  - Role of earlier notification and information about the age and medical/functional disabilities of occupants
- Help identify what additional research and development is needed to improve the safety of older occupants and pedestrians in crashes

# What CIREN Can Do to Aid Developing a National Agenda (cont'd)

- Provide technical data to identify improvements in restraint systems
- Help identify role of alcohol, drugs and their interaction in crashes by older people
- Help identify role of correctly and incorrectly used restraint systems
- Help identifying age specific EMS procedures to reduce the level of injury and fatalities of older people